



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**April 15, 2005**

**Thomas P. Colantuono**  
**United States Attorney**

**Contact: Joseph N. Laplante**  
**First Assistant U.S. Attorney**  
**(603) 230-2530**

**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**MANCHESTER MAN CONVICTED OFFEDERAL DRUG AND WEAPON OFFENSES**

**Re: United States v. Michael HUNT**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, and Clifford Ellston, Resident Agent in Charge of the N.H. Field Division of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), announced that Michael HUNT, 37, of Manchester, N.H. was convicted on April 15, 2005 of federal weapon and drug distribution charges.

HUNT entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm on December 8, 2004, in Manchester, N.H.

HUNT was detained without bail by Judge Barbadoro pending his sentencing hearing to be held in U.S. District Court in Concord on July 28, 2005. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years.

On December 8, 2004, after a traffic stop, Hunt's automobile and Manchester apartment were searched, resulting in the seizure of approximately half of a kilogram of cocaine and a stolen, loaded .25 caliber Taurus handgun. Hunt was convicted of burglary in 1988, and as a convicted felon was prohibited from possessing firearms.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal drug and firearms laws as mandated by DOJ's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons and drug traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

— M O R E —

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against HUNT resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. State Police with assistance from the Manchester Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.

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